



Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education
Tel. 603-271-3144

Paul K. Leather
Deputy Commissioner
Tel. 603-271-3801

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Higher Education – Higher Education Commission
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, N.H. 03301
FAX 603-271-1953
Citizens Services Line 1-800-339-9900**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF May 12, 2015

A regular meeting of the Higher Education Commission was held at 3 Barrell Court, Concord, New Hampshire at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2015. The following members were present:

Tom Galligan, Chair
Sara Jayne Steen, Vice Chair
Steve Appleby (via telephone)
Sr. Paula Marie Buley
John Curran
Michael Diffily
Alicia Harvey-Smith (via telephone)
Anne Huot (via telephone)
Scott Kalicki
Todd Leach
David Mahoney
Michele Perkins
Eli Rivera
Mark Rubinstein
Lindsay Whaley

The following members were unable to attend:

Virginia Barry
Jim Fitzgerald
Ross Gittell
Mark Huddleston
Stephen Jones
Peter Koch
Paul LeBlanc

- 1) Chair Galligan called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, especially Mark Rubinstein, new Commissioner and President of Granite State College. He then requested a roll call.

- 2) Mr. Kalicki moved, seconded by Sr. Paula Marie Buley, to accept the minutes of February 3, 2015. The motion passed without dissent.
- 3) Mr. Mahoney was named by Commission Chair Galligan as the Chair of the Nominating Committee, replacing former Commissioner James Birge. On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Mahoney noted that with the retirement of Sara Jayne Steen, the Commission Vice Chair slot was open and the Committee recommended Todd Leach, Chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire, to fill this vacancy. It also recommended Scott Kalicki, President of Lakes Region Community College, to fill the public institution vacancy that would occur with the appointment of Todd Leach as Vice Chair. Mr. Mahoney moved, seconded by Sr. Paula Marie, to accept the Nominating Committee recommendations. The motion passed without dissent.
- 4) Richard Gustafson, Evaluation Team Chair, presented the Interim Evaluation Report for the American University of Madaba's request to extend degree-granting authority for all degrees. Due to political unrest in the Middle East, it was decided to hold an interim evaluation versus an onsite visit. An extensive self-study was reviewed that included recommendations this Commission asked for in the two previous approvals. All standards were met and it was recommended that the Commission extend degree-granting authority through December 31, 2016 for the following degrees:

- Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Biology and Biotechnology
- Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
- Bachelor of Science in Physics and Materials Science
- Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratories
- Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics
- Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Accounting
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Marketing
- Bachelor of Science in Risk Management
- Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design
- Bachelor of Arts in Arabic Language and Literature
- Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature
- Bachelor of Arts in Translation
- Bachelor of Science in Architecture
- Bachelor of Science in Interior Design
- Bachelor of Science in Banking and Finance

The following provisions would apply:

- (a) The American University of Madaba makes efforts to more directly engage the American members of the Board of Trustees in the activities of the Board.

- (b) The American University of Madaba intensifies its work with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) to move forward on its path to regional accreditation, and provide the Higher Education Commission with copies of all correspondence and reports to/from the NEASC regarding the University's work with the association.
- (c) The American University of Madaba provides the Higher Education Commission with the translated results and recommendations of the J-HEAC evaluation of American University of Madaba scheduled for the summer of 2015.
- (d) The American University of Madaba continues to maintain an office at the New Hampshire College & University Council.
- (e) The American University of Madaba provides the Higher Education Commission with an annual report on or before March 1, 2016 to address the above provisions, as well as inclusion of enrollment, staffing and financial data with respect to the operation of the University.

Vice Chair Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Leach, to accept the recommendations. The motion passed without dissent.

- 5) Director MacKay presented Hellenic American University's request for new degree-granting authority to offer the Bachelor of Science in Engineering with majors in Electrical Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Sustainability. Dr. Robert Henry, P.E., University of New Hampshire, reviewed the application on behalf of the Commission and was not able to support the request. Upon being informed of Dr. Henry's position, Hellenic American University (HAU) submitted a revised request to consider conditional approval for a Bachelor of Science in Engineering with a major in Electrical Engineering, and provided that proposal on May 12, 2015.

Discussion followed, and included the comment by Hellenic American University that the timing of Commission approval was important because the Greek ministry of education only meets once a year. If the degree were to be offered this Fall, then the proposal would need to be submitted by June 1st and include documentation of approval by the Higher Education Commission. Sr. Paula Marie Buley moved, seconded by Vice Chair Steen, to grant conditional approval for Hellenic American University to offer the Bachelor of Science in Engineering with a major in Electrical Engineering, and delegated authority to Director MacKay to provide final approval of the degree/program upon verification the institution has made requested curricular revisions, and contingent upon two additional conditions. First, the Commission requested Dr. Henry opine on the feasibility of Hellenic American University achieving the changes and resource additions necessary to offer an effective degree/program prior to the initiation date (presumably the Fall), and Director MacKay would use that assessment to inform the approval decision. Second, the Commission required a letter from Hellenic American University prior to offering the program (again, presumably this Fall) certifying the facilities, faculty, and resources required to offer the degree/program were in place. The motion passed without dissent.

- 6) In order to better align the Commission's review for continuing approval of graduate degrees offered by Southern New Hampshire University, it was moved by Mr. Leach and seconded by Sr. Paula Marie Buley to extend degree-granting approval for Southern New Hampshire University's Doctor of Philosophy in International Business and the Master of Arts until June 30, 2016. This was with the provision that any communication to/from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges relating to these programs would be forwarded to the Commission.

In addition, the requirement that all materials to/from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) be forwarded to the Commission was repealed. The motion passed without dissent.

- 7) In 2011, due to the elimination of the body then providing accreditation for the Upper Valley Educator Institute, the Commission provided temporary approval for the Institute to operate a wholly-owned subsidiary titled the Upper Valley Graduate School of Education, thereby enabling students to continue to be eligible for Title IV aid. The transition to securing alternative accreditation has taken longer than anticipated, and action is needed to clarify the status of use of the name. Mr. Kalicki moved, seconded by Ms. Perkins, to approve the formal change of name from the Upper Valley Educators Institute to the Upper Valley Graduate School of Education until December 31, 2019 or approval of accreditation by the Accrediting Council for Independent Schools and Colleges (ACICS), whichever comes first. The name would revert back to the Upper Valley Educators Institute upon accreditation. If accreditation is not attained, approval would terminate as of December 31, 2019. This was with the condition that copies of all correspondence to and from the Teacher Education Accreditation Council and the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training are forwarded to the Commission. Additionally, the Commission would be invited to attend any site visit(s). Participation as an observer at a site visit would be determined upon receipt and review of correspondence. The motion passed without dissent.
- 8) On the motion of Mr. Leach, seconded by Mr. Curran, the Commission voted to recommend the appointment of Dave Mahoney to the N.H. College Tuition Savings Plan Advisory Commission. The motion passed without dissent, with Mr. Mahoney abstaining.
- 9) Director MacKay presented meeting dates for 2015/2016 as follows:
Tuesday, May 12, 2015 @ 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 6, 2015 @ 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 2, 2016 @ 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 17, 2016 @ 2:00 p.m.
- Chair Galligan indicated a conflict on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 @ 2:00 and stated he would forward dates he would not be available to the Commission office. The Director agreed to solicit availability for a new May, 2016 date that would enable Chair Galligan to participate in the meeting.
- 10) Director MacKay presented highlights of the Director's Report. Major highlights included:
- a. Legislative update on H.B. 577 – Establishing a children's savings account program, and relative to the bonding authority of the city of Dover; and S.B. 265 – Establishing the achieving a better life experience (ABLE) savings account program.

- b. Update on the Coalition for Business and Education – a group of individuals from the business and education communities who have come together to support and advocate for different programs that would enable the state to sustain a quality of life in NH and achieve workforce objectives.
 - c. Update on the National Council – State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA).
 - d. Update on his role as an observer at the onsite comprehensive evaluation of Colby-Sawyer College by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges on March 8-11, 2015.
- 11) Under Other Business, Chair Galligan recognized and thanked Sara Jayne Steen, for her nine incredible years as president of Plymouth State University, for her outstanding service to the Higher Education Commission and for serving as vice chair. He asked commissioners to join him with a round of applause and gratitude.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.